

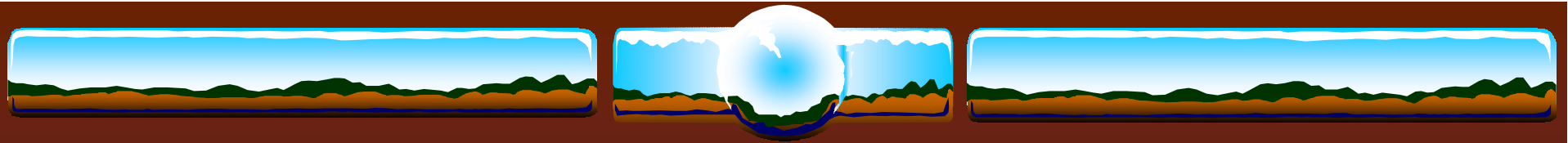
Critical Ecosystems Workshop

June 17-20, 2002

Keystone, Colorado

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Acting Associate Director for Ecology
National Exposure Research Laboratory
Office of Research and Development

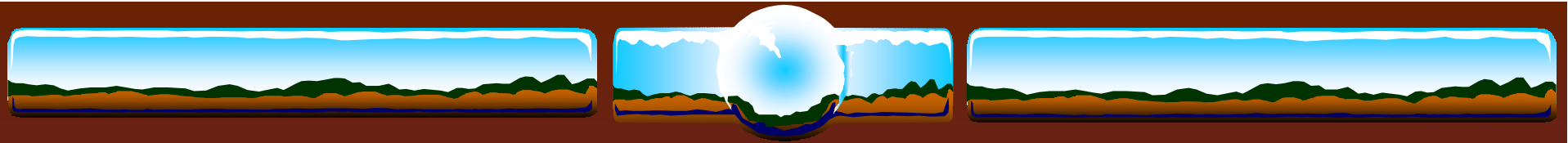


Agency Decisions/Sound Science

✍ “The credibility of our decisions depends on the science.”

✍ “I believe that scientific analysis should drive policy. Neither policy nor politics should drive scientific results.

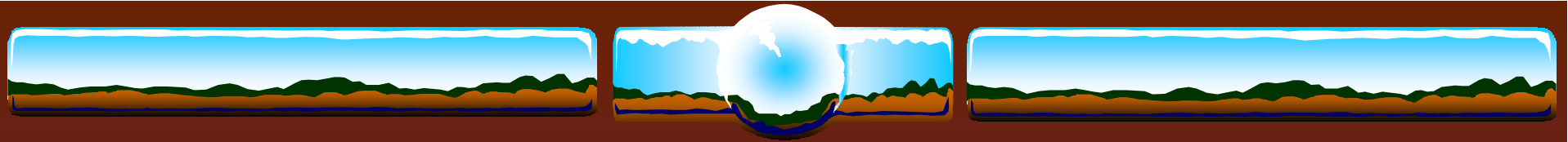
- Administrator Whitman, SETAC, 11.13.01



The State of Critical Ecosystems

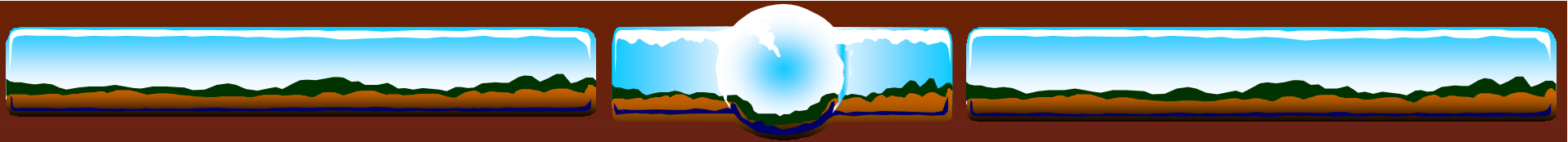
“It is also important that we hold ourselves accountable to the American public and report to them our progress in reaching the goals we have set for ourselves. Therefore, I am directing the Agency to prepare a State of the Environment Report,to describe the condition of critical environmental areas and human health concerns.”

Text from Governor Whitman’s memo to Assistant and Regional Administrators, date November 13, 2001



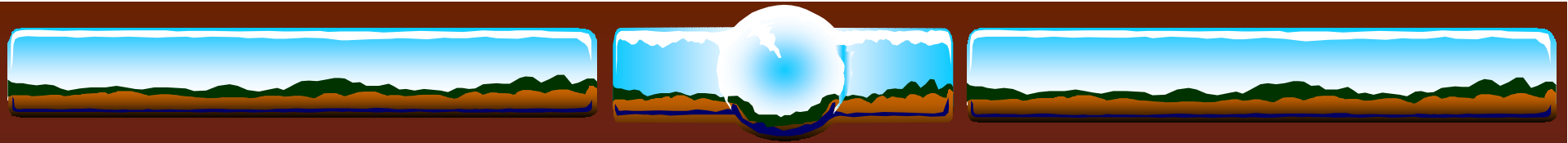
ORD Regional Science Program

- ✍ Regional Science Liaisons to ORD
- ✍ Regional Applied Research Effort (RARE)
- ✍ Regions/ORD Science Topic Workshops



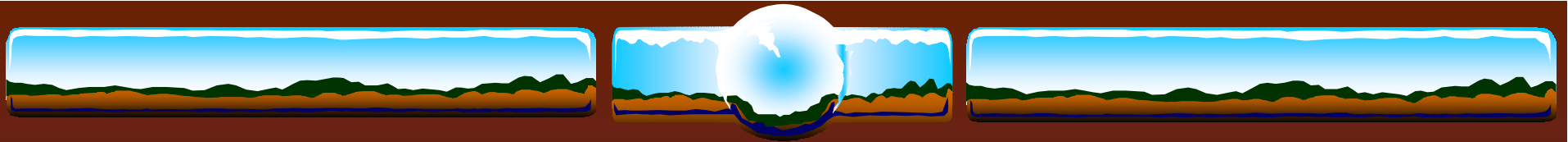
Regions/ORD Science Topic Workshops

- ✍ Topics - selected by the Regions
- ✍ Science issues - identified by the Regions
- ✍ Jointly planned - Regions, ORD, and
interested Program Offices



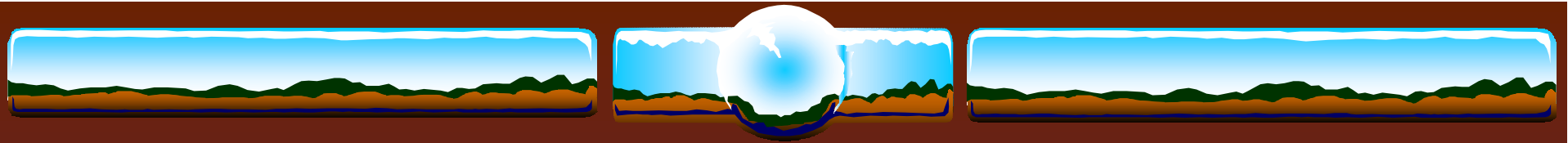
Workshop Objectives

- ✍ Create cross-Agency science networks
- ✍ Identify:
 1. Opportunities to integrate EPA science into Regional decision-making
 2. Critical science uncertainties, and
 3. Needed science products



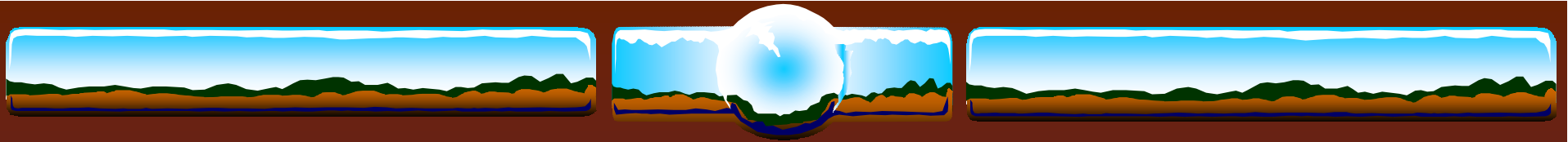
Expected Outcomes of THIS Workshop

- ✍ Identify existing and ongoing work related to critical ecosystems
 - ✍ Definitions of critical ecosystems
 - ✍ Importance of the regional approach
- ✍ Enhance networking among practitioners of critical ecosystem science
 - ✍ Data and tools



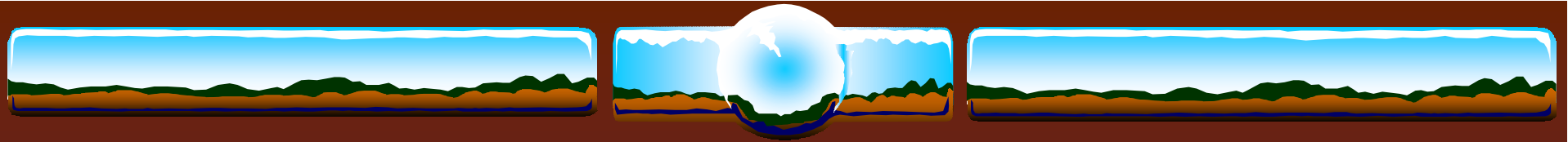
Expected Outcomes of THIS Workshop

- ✍ Consider critical ecosystems as impetus to develop commitment and tools for more integrated management of ecosystems
- ✍ Recognize that the science and the practice are in early development
 - ✍ Adaptive research based on stronger collaborations among regions, states, programs and ORD



Expected Outcomes of THIS Workshop

- ✍ Identify gaps and outstanding science needs
 - ✍ Elevate those needs in the research planning process
 - ✍ RCT planning
 - ✍ Agency initiatives
 - ✍ Interagency workgroups



Expected Outcomes of THIS Workshop

- ✍ To assure the small cells of critical ecosystems scientist working within program-oriented organizations
- ✍ **YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**